

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wireless telecommunications system is provided for connecting to a data link and for routing data packets between the data link and a subscriber terminal of the wireless telecommunications system. The subscriber terminal is connectable to a central terminal of the wireless telecommunications system via a radio resource, the wireless telecommunications system providing a group of communication channels arranged to utilise the radio resource for transmission of data packets. The group is shared by a plurality of subscriber terminals and consists of downlink communication channels for transmission of data packets from the central terminal to the subscriber terminals and uplink communication channels for transmission of data packets from the subscriber terminals to the central terminal. The wireless telecommunications system further comprises a subscriber controller within the subscriber terminal arranged, when a data packet is to be transmitted to the data link, to acquire an uplink communication channel from the group to enable that data packet to be transmitted via the central terminal to the data link. A resource monitor is then used to receive information concerning the traffic loading of predetermined elements of the wireless telecommunications system, and to apply predetermined criteria based on that information to determine how long the uplink communication channel may be acquired for by the subscriber terminal before causing the subscriber controller to release the uplink communication channel for use by other subscriber terminals.

This approach enables the time a subscriber terminal is allowed to keep an uplink communication channel acquired for its own use to be managed having regard to prevailing traffic conditions, thereby enabling efficient management of the shared communication channels in the group.